

JOINT MEETING MINUTES
AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD (AHAB) &
THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (ICH)
September 5th, 2007—10am to 2pm
Red Lion Hotel—SeaTac, WA

ATTENDEES:

(AHAB) Kevin Grossman, Lynn Davison, Paul Purcell, Joan Hernandez, Christine Walsh Rogers, Cathy Cochran, Wanda Coats, Thomas Moak, Ned Palmer, Joseph Diehl, Renee Rooker, Kim Herman, Will Graham, Heyward Watson Cindy Carter, Chris Lowell

(ICH) Juno Whittaker, Alfie Alvarado, Blake Chard, Jody Becker-Green, Mary Leftridge Byrd

(CTED) Tedd Kelleher, Annie Conant, Martin McMurry

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Welcome & Introductions
- The Homeless Housing Assistance Act
- Homeless 10Year Plan Strategies
- AHAB 5 Year Plan Strategies/Intersections w/ 10 Year Plan
- State Advisory Council on Homelessness (SACH) Recommendations
- Next Steps/Action Items

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

AHAB Board Chair, Heyward Watson welcomed ICH members to the meeting and introduced new AHAB members Kevin Grossman and Cindy Carter.

THE HOMELESS HOUSING ASSISTANCE ACT

Tedd Kelleher provided an overview of the originating legislation that created the Homeless Housing Assistance Act (HHAA) which required the State and local governments to reduce homelessness by 50 percent. A major component of the Act is performance measurement and its implementation. As a result there is a lot of activity related to data collection and revisiting existing data sources as a way to measure success in reducing homelessness. Additionally, counties are to develop 10yr plans which outline their strategies and activities to achieve goals. Tedd presented the 13 strategies the State suggests to use for implementation. The model behind the strategies stem from the CTED Fiscal Note model in order to derive cost estimates of implementing planned strategies.

10 YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESS STRATEGIES

Members of the ICH were asked to speak on behalf of their agencies and their efforts with the ICH as it pertains to the State 10 yr Plan to end Homelessness. Blake Chard, Deputy Secretary of DSHS explained the commitments of DSHS to end homelessness. Their effort is deliberative with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the State Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA). Much of the effort is looking at existing programs, services and data as it pertains to ending homelessness—an incremental approach.

Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Deputy Director of DVA, commented on the homelessness and housing issues that Veterans in Washington face. The fundamental concerns are around outreach and education regarding eligibilities veterans may have. Shared initiatives w/ DSHS and DOC help in this effort.

Mary Leftridge Byrd, Deputy Secretary DOC provided the group DOC's perspective as it relates the Homelessness planning. DOC's re-entry initiatives include looking at transition issues while offenders are still incarcerated. Another initiative is looking at constructing affordable housing, both workforce housing for its employees, but also for ex-offenders as they transition into the community. Community Justice Centers will be expanded to include more umbrella services as well.

Juno Whittaker from the Department of Health (DOH) expressed much of the discussion centers around prevention, which fits into the overall purview of DOH.

AHAB 5 YEAR PLAN STRATEGIES/INTERSECTIONS

AHAB and ICH members were provided copies of the AHAB strategies and a link to the 10yr Plan to End Homelessness prior to the meeting. Paul Purcell provided a brief historical context of the creation of the AHAB 5 year advisory plan. The genesis of the plan was to get collective voices in the affordable housing community (developers, planners and advocates) to develop a singular plan.

Lynn Davison provided an overview of the strategies within the AHAB plan. There was discussion on the actual strategy intersections between the two plans. Specifically, strategies 6 and 7 of the AHAB 5yr plan speaks to many of the points outlined in the 10 yr plan.

SACH RECCOMENDATIONS

Chris Lowell, AHAB member and Chair of the State Advisory Council on Homelessness, gave the group an overview of the specific recommendations as ratified by SACH for the Governor. SACH drafted 2 recommendations with several specific action items related to achieving those recommendations (handout). Ms. Lowell expressed the excitement of the collaboration among AHAB, ICH and SACH. The group discussed how important it is to convene on homelessness and create a shared movement on the issue.

NEXT STEPS

It was articulated to bolster the information sharing among all 3 groups and related parties. This could include scheduled meetings with the year with various groups; letters amongst the groups; board/council updates as agenda item; and the availability of meeting minutes each quarter. It was also discussed to move the December AHAB meeting date to November in order to adequately prepare for the upcoming legislative session.

****Meeting Adjourned 2pm—Next Meeting November 14th, 2007****